

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

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Contact Person

Peter M. Jarosz
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Eric A. Olson, 39, of Superior, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 260 months in prison without parole for manufacturing and possessing child pornography. Following his release from prison, Olson will be on supervised release for the rest of his life. Olson pleaded guilty to the charges on February 14, 2007.

On July 25, 2006, Olson posted a link to a website containing child pornography during an Federal Bureau of Investigation undercover investigation. Agents later executed a search warrant at his home and seized his computer and numerous DVDs. Child pornography was found on his computer hard drive and several of the DVDs. In addition, agents seized an 8mm video containing child pornography which was made by the defendant sometime between November 2001 and April 2003.

In sentencing Olson, Judge Crabb said Olson presents an extreme danger to children. She added that his actions had devastating consequences and the victim would not be able to forget what he did.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006,

Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The charges against Olson were the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Superior Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

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